

United States Court of Appeals

District of Columbia Circuit
Washington, D.C. 20001-2866

MEMORANDUM CONCERNING SELF-REPRESENTATION

The records of this Court indicate you are litigating this appeal in a pro se capacity. That is, you are not represented by an attorney and will be personally preparing papers for submission to the Court.

Decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States and of this Court have held that individuals representing themselves who are not attorneys are entitled to have their pleadings viewed in a less restrictive manner than pleadings submitted by attorneys. Accordingly, you will be allowed to present your case in your own written words without strict adherence to technical requirements, as is expected of attorneys.

In one regard, however, you will be strictly held to the requirements of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure and the Circuit Rules of this Court, as if you were an attorney. This is in the area of timeliness of your filings. For example, your brief must be placed in the mail by the date established in the scheduling order issued by the Court. Another example is in responding to a motion filed by the party opposing you. You have eight business days (that is, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays are excluded) within which to respond to a motion, plus an additional three calendar days if the motion was served on you by mail. You will be expected to adhere to these time requirements and all others in the previously mentioned rules. If any submission of yours is not made in a timely manner it will not be filed. If you believe you have good reason for not adhering to the time requirements, you may submit your pleading along with a second filing entitled Motion For Leave To File Out Of Time. In this second filing you should set forth your reasons for not having met the time requirements and ask the court to file your pleading nevertheless. You should be aware, however, that these motions are not routinely granted, but are read and evaluated on an individual basis.

Failure to comply with court orders, respond to dispositive motions by another party, or file your brief will result in dismissal of the appeal for lack of prosecution. See D.C. Cir. Rule 38.